GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3135
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
PRASAR BHARATI
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, Press Council has asked for carrying out comprehensive changes in existing Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard after going through the views expressed by him;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government for providing democratic shape to Prasar Bharati?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati has informed that Chairman, Press Council of India, had forwarded to one of the Members of the Prasar Bharati Board, a brief note on electronic media policy advocating three sectors/sets of channels in the electronic media run respectively by -
(i) public sector which includes Central and State governments, local bodies, public undertakings etc.
(ii) private sector consisting of private individuals and organizations and
(iii) people`s sector which will be independent of both the private and the public sector.

(c): The Government has not received any recommendation or suggestion from Prasar Bharati in this regard.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): The Government is in the view that an autonomous Prasar Bharati, as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, meets the basic objective of strengthening the democratic process in our country. However, keeping in view the responsibility of Prasar Bharati as a public service broadcaster, the Government had constituted a Committee comprising of Shri N.R. Narayanamurthy, CEO Infosys, Shri Kiran Karnik, MD, Discovery Communications India and Shri Shunu Sen, a well known Marketing Consultant, to study its working and make appropriate recommendations with regard to its organizational structure, legal framework, systems and other relevant areas to ensure quality, credibility and professionalism within the organization. The committee has submitted its report on 20th May, 2000. A copy of the report is available at Ministry`s website i.e. mib. nic.in. View on some of the recommendations of the Committee is to be taken by Prasar Bharati, where as in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. The Government is in the process of consulting the members of the Prasar Bharati Board, representatives of staff and employees unions before taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee to seek their views.